"PUTNASPE,"

The January number of Putnam's Magazine has the following table of contents: -

"Cuba and Spain;" "American Hotels," by a Cosmopolitan; "Sketches in Color," ii; "Concerning Charlotte," part i, by the author of "Still Life in Paris;" "Ad Meipsum," by Rev. S. W. Duffield; "In the Departments," by W. H. Babcock; "Harvest," by Edgar Fawcett; "Thawed Out," by M. L. Bissell; "A Franch Salon," by Shirley Hyde; "A Woman's Right," i, by Mary Clemmer Ames; "Linguistics-the New Philology," by Professor J. G. R. McElroy; "Father Hyacinthe and his Church," by John Bigelow; "Brevities: The Princess Biddy;" "Table-Talk," by Charlton T. Lewis; 'Literature at Home,

by R. H. Stoddard; "Current Events." From the article by W. H. Babcock entitled "In the Departments," we quote the following:-

It must be admitted that the general tendency of office routine is far from beneficial. A vast majority of the clerks have of necessity but little responsibility resting upon them, and soon learn to let their interest in their work cease with each day's allotted portion. Their minds are thus left vacant during the remaining eighteen hours, and susceptible to all external temptations, while salaries regularly paid furnish them with the means of gratifying their desires. It is no wonder that many of the younger and more thoughtless should be begulled into follies that at home would be almost without attraction.

But this is not the only evil effect produced. While there are undoubtedly some situations in the various offices which require unusual ability, diligence, and learning, it is none the less true that at most of the desks but a very moderate quantity of brainwork is required, and no bodywork that is worthy of the name. As a natural result, the unused faculties, both mental and physical, lose their power; the knowledge acquired by patient study at school and college is forgotten little by little; the skill of hand in more laborious avocations steadily decreases: and even bodily health and vigor soon waste away. Besides, the cheerfulness and self-respect that come from continuous and useful labor are at least partially lost; while the consciousness of being an underling with no chance of promotion tends to dwarf all ambition and undermine all self-reliance and independence of character.

A very considerable number of the young men who enter the departments marry within two or three years afterward; and to some of them marriage proves a blessing. Indeed, it is a mat-ter of general remark that for every single clerk who lays up money there are five married ones. But, notwithstanding, it is a somewhat hazard-ous experiment. Even if the couple succeed in saving anything at first, which, considering the exorbitance of Washington prices, is no easy matter, their slender resources are sure to be drawn upon as the family increases, till nothing Then there is the ever-present danger of discharge continually hanging over their heads. With every change of administration it comes in the guise of rotation in office; while between times "reduction" (that terrible word!) constitutes a sufficient explanation at any moment. Very often this same "reduction" is only appar ut, consisting simply in the removal of strangers or personal enemies to make room for the friends of those in power. But that is a poor consolation to the helpless discharged one. His only resource is to dog the heels and play lacquey in the anterooms of our little great men. hoping that by Congressional influence he can procure reinstatement.

This falling, as it usually does, a hard lot awaits him. His long-continued sedentary life has totally unfitted him for either manual labor, mercantile pursuits, or the practice of a profession; and in all probability he has no resource either of mind or body that possesses a market value. Then he has been tugged so long in the wake of the Ship of State that he doubts his to row alone, and is half inclined to shrink from the undertaking. Without money, friends—for he has probably made none in Washington who can help him—or means of earning a livelihood, and with a family looking to him for support, his condition is far from enviable.

Indeed, the amount of suffering which results from the present arbitrary system of discharges is far greater than is generally known. and perhaps than would be generally believed. The troubles and trials of a clerk attract no attention from the world outside; and but very little from even his companions at the office. They recognize in him a bird of passage like themselves, who comes no one knows whence, and goes no one knows whither. While together, they have their petty merry-makings and heart-burnings, their common grievances and pleasures; but when the hour of discharge comes, he passes from their little world like a star blotted out of heaven, leaving not a trace behind. No wonder then that his after-strucgles and sorrows remain hidden from the world's One or two incidents illustrate, as well as sus-

tain, my assertions.

Several years ago a party were visiting an insane asylum in the vicinity of Washington. The gentleman who was conducting them over the establishment being called away for a few moments, they were left to await his return.
Within the next room they heard footsteps

pacing continually backward and forward like those of some chained animal. Now they sounded with a slow, heavy regularity, as if they were the mechanical action of one who was plunged in reverie or depressed by sorrow now with nervous rapidity, as though an inward excitement too strong to be contained had sought this means of relief. It broke by fits and starts from one gait to the other; and between the footfalls they could hear low moans scarcely rising above the breath, but telling an inexpressible degree of suffering.

At length the walker seemed aware of their proximity, and coming close up to the door which separated the two apartments, tapped gently upon it several times. Then they heard her voice; for a woman's voice, and a very sweet and heartbroken one, it was. She said: — "Ladies — ladies — gentlemen — ladies and gentlemen — won't you do a little favor for me. Won't you carry a letter to my dear husband, and my little son only six years old. They won't let them come to see me; and I've been here I don't know how long. Now do, do be kind, ladies; I'm sure I've asked you humbly; I'm sure I've been polite to you. Won't you give a letter to my husband and my dear little son only six years old?"

The whole affair was extremely affecting; and when their conductor returned he was at once besleged with inquiries. "Poor thing," said he, husband and son are both dead; but we cannot make her understand it. He was a Government clerk, and a most estimable man; but his life in the department nourished a natural tendency to consumption, and when his discharge came it found him utterly unfitted to make his way in the world. It was based entirely upon political grounds. As might have been expected, he had neither friends nor money, and his delicate wife was, if possible, still more helpless. The hardship and poverty that followed killed him, and made her a lunatic. Their little son died soon after his father, for he had inherited all the feebleness of his parents. She was passionately fond of both, and, as you see, cannot be made to realize that they are dead; but weeps and moans a great deal of the time, and tries every way to communicate

with them. Another case fell more immediately within my own knowledge. Old Mr. F- had been for many years a clerk in the Treasury, having managed to weather the periodical storms as well as the intermediate and almost equally dangerous gusts; and had begun to congratulate himself on the possession for the rest of his days of a posi-tion which long practice had enabled him to fill well, and which, indeed, was now about the only one that he could fill at all. But "the pitcher that goes often to the well will be

lowed up his salary as fast as it accrued; and he was as totally unfitted for the duties and struggles of active life as a mnmmy newly taken from the pyramids of Egypt. His only resource was to seek other employment similar to that of which he had been deprived; and a wearisome, hopeless search it seemed. Day after day, and week after week passed—and still nothing to do. It was not till

emedy the mischief that had been done. The mental agony which his wife had undergone at that trying period, together with the desperate and long-continued struggles which she had made for the support of the family, had so affected her perves that she became totally What might have been the effect of prolongation of that anguish can, of course, only e conjectured.

absolute destitution had long been at their door that help arrived; and then it came too late to

still is a clerk, a little, thin, tottering old man, with pale, shrunken face, and hair that is nearly white. He moves feebly from place to place, like one whose enjoyment in life has long ceased, and who walks amid the ghosts of his former pleasures. It is not probable that he will ever be reduced to want again, but his whole life is a living death. His wife has but partially recovered her eyesight, and never will be again what she was before their great trouble. It is often observed that elderly clerks very selom survive their discharges for any great length of time. The total change of habits and pursuits which is thus forced upon them is like tearing up a tree by its roots; and the anxieties of a helpless and moneyless old age aid in breaking down their enfeebled constitutions.

But clerks, whether discharged or not, seldom live very long. Senility comes to meet them with hasty steps; and their gait becomes a totter at a time of life when the farmer exults in the

full vigor of a healthy middle age.

The instances of suffering which I have given are not solitary, but are taken from large classes of which the public never hear. All of these are due first to the injurious influences of clerical life; and secondly, to the present system of arbitrary discharges, It is all very well to cry "to the victors belong the spoils!" and to land the doctrine of rotation in office: but would the country be greatly injured if the spoils were to be placed where none could grasp them? And does this system of constant shifting produce any benefits that will counterbalance such evils as these? By all means remove the incompetent and unworthy; but why discharge useful workmen merely for the sake of change? Who would not stigmatize a man as a tool who was constantly turning away skilled mechanics from his establishment in order that new hands might supply their places? Yet that is precisely what the Government is doing all the time-and yet people wonder that the civil service is expensive, and far from perfect in its organi-

There is urgent need that some plan should be adopted similar to that proposed in the bill introduced by Mr. Jenckes during the last Congressional session. Applicants for appointments should be examined so as to test their fitness for the position; but the examination should be of an exclusively practical kind. This is an all-important requirement: and yet it is one that will very probably be overlooked. The work of a clerk is ordinarily of the simplest kind; and requires a thorough acquaintance with the fundamental branches of an English education, and nothing more. In some offices a knowledge of bookkeeping is required; in others facility and accuracy of composition: in almost all handsome penmanship, and spelling as nearly faultless as may be. He who possesses these, together with a good stock of common sense and industry, will speedily make the best of clerks for all positions except a very few. But it is perfectly evident that the greatest genius or most erudite savant may be deficient in them, and consequently of little value for departmental purposes. As before re-marked, it is not the extent of a man's acquirements so much as their adaptation to the business in hand which constitutes their real value; and an examination aimed solely at the

ducing any good results.

Once appointed, the clerk should be removed only because of incompetency or unworthiness, clearly proven by a fair trial. And, when worn out in the service, justice and humanity alike aggest that his declining years be secured from

former object will fail most lamentably in pro-

want and suffering. Let these three desiderata be properly attended to-the securing of competent clerks by means of suitable examinations, the abolition arbitrary discharges, and the support of those who have grown old in harness-and the civil service at Washington will become a far more efficient instrument of Government than it ever has been; and, furthermore, there will be an end to this periodical suffering and hard-ship which has so long been a disgrace to the

A clerkship, however, never will be a suitable place for any independent, energetic, ambitious spirit: nor will it ever cease to totally unfit all who long abide in it for any other mode of life. It should be, and must be, the lot of that quiet class of men who are satisfied with a life-long possession of its advantages and disadvantages. There will always be a sufficient supply of these and, harassed by no external cares, tracted by no ulterior aims, they will make the very best body of clerks that could possibly be found. But let all others shun the departments.

To this dictum, however, I would make one exception. The clerkships of the departments may be made the stepping-stones to higher and nobler objects by one who has the resolution to leave them when the proper moment has arrived. He who can do this is blessed with rare opportunities for advancement. His labors at the office occupy but a portion of the day, and if he will resolutely apply the remainder to the acquisition of the profession which he has chosen, rapid progress lies within his power.

But it is hard to keep straight on, never glancing at the allurements which bespread the right hand and the left; any harder still to drop the staff that has so long upheld one's footsteps when it is becoming a weight clogging Yet it can be done, and he who has the fortitude to do it will have little occasion to look upon the years of his clerk-life as wasted and profitless years.'

From the Hon. John Bigelow's paper on 'Father Hyacinthe and his Church" we extract the concluding paragraphs:-

To us it seems incredible that any of the acts mputed to him by his enemies should have exposed him to the censure, still less to the persecutions, of any society of professing Christians. et us recapitulate them:

In one of his discourses he treated the Re-volution of 1789 as a political and social neces-

2. In another he denounced Pharisaism as in the Church, as Jesus Christ had done before him. 3. In defending himself from an asper-sion upon his charity towards persons having different religious views from his, he intimated that there were Catholics who mourned the disappearance of the Inquisition and the Dragonnades, a statement fully con-firmed by the Encylical letter of 1864.

4. In a private note to a friend he stated that the Catholics who were trying to identify the fortunes of the Church with those of a disreputable woman who had just been expelled from the throne of Spain, were dragging the Church through blood and mire.

5. He quoted a letter written by the Pope in 1848 to the Emperor of Austria, which favored Italian unity.
6. He proclaimed that Jews and Protestants, as well as Catholics, came within the pale of an

enlightened Christian charity.
7. He always preached a religion in sympathy with the progressive tendencies of modern civi-

8. Finally, he persisted in being the friend of the Archbishop of Paris, and refused to place himself under the direction of any bishop of another diocese.

We make no account of his abandoning his convent and disobeying the order of his General to return, for those acts were the logical consequences of the prior offenses, if the Church will persist in regarding as offenses the auts which

broken at last;" and so he was finally discharged.

Of congse current expenditures had swallowed up his salary as fast as it mission, and that he exposed himself to the penalties which have been visited upon him by the executive officers of his order. His Church provides a mode of procedure for the secularization of priests desiring to renounce their monastic vows, but Father Hyacinthe did not choose to avail himself of it. He declined to recognize an authority which, as he thought, had been abused in his person, which was grading the pricethood, corrupting the hierarchy, and sapping the vital forces of the Church. thought it his duty to stand to the faith he had conscientiously espoused, and which he believed Evangelical, rather than succumb to what he regatded as organized error and pharisaical oppression. It was the duty of some one to challenge the wolf which in sheep's clothing was devouring the faithful. He nat-urally enough concluded that there was no fitter person than himself to do it. Nor in this was he mistaken. His piety; his well-known devo-tion to the Church; his eminent gifts of speech, which promised him every possible distinction that Rome can confer, and which therefore protect his motives from degrading suspicions, all seemed to conspire to make his the voice that should cry " in the wilderness, to prepare way of the Lord and make his paths straight." Since Luther there has been no such signal

revolt against the authority of the Romish hierarcy. Fenelon professed doctrines which Louis XIV. compelled the Pope and his Cardinals to condemn. Though Fenelon defended his Max-imes up to the last hour of the deliberations at Rome with unrelenting earnestness, the moment Rome spoke, though by a bare majority of the Cardinals, he succumbed and publicly de-nounced his book from the pulpit of his own cathedral. Lammenais revolted against the abuses of the Papal Government, but unhap-pily his religion had the Church, not the Bible, or its base, and he wandered away into rationalsm and unbelief.

Lacordaire hovered all his life on the borders of the Church, forever preaching a broader Christianity than was tolerated at Rome, always tormented with the restraints imposed upon his ongue and conscience by his ecclesiastical superior, and always in a state of mental and moral insubordination to the Papal hierarchy. But Lacordaire had not the physical health nor animal force necessary to brave the consequences of an open revolt. He was constitutionally his monastic life had gradually incapacitated him for comprehending the vast re-sources for such a contest, which the living world around him, with the Divine blessing, would have supplied, and he succumbed to the rigors of ecclesiastical discipline and to lisease, induced no doubt by his inability live the complete life for which he had been created. He fell a prey to a sort of dry rot, which fastens, sooner or later, upon all commit their consciences to the keeping of fellow sinners, who seek to escape sin by fleeing from temptation rather than by fighting and overcoming it, and who fancy that the best way of keeping the commandments is to spend all one's time in reciting them.

The eloquent Bishop of Orleans is also one of hose representative men, too earnest and enightened a Christian to accept the perverse tollies of the Syllabus; but instead of taking his stand against it, he set himself to work, as soon as it appeared, to prove that it meant something very different from what it said, and that in-stead of being in conflict it was in harmony with the doctrines proclaimed at Malines. This disingenuous plea for the Papal Government was attributed by his partisans to his worthy desire to avoid dissensions in the Church. He preferred to see it a prey to error rather than to schismto surrender the shepherd's crook to the wolf than to have the flock scattered by learning their

The consequence is, that this gifted and admirable prelate, instead of remaining what his genius designed him to be, a controlling power in the Church of Christ, has by degrees parted with his birthright, and is now the reluctant but unresisting instrument of a devastating Ultramontanism. Like Lammenais and Lacordaire and Fenelon, he has not proved equal to his opportunities. Like them, 'be rejected the com-mandments of God that he might keep the tradition of the elders." Like them, too, he has always been toiling for reforms, but accomplishing none, because he had more faith in the

It was not so with Luther. Thus far it has not been so with Father Hyacinthe. Will he, too, fall by the way, or is he to share the reward reserved for those who endure unto the end? - Father Hyacinthe, it is believed, thus far followed his convictions ully. When his conscience told him distinctly that Roman theology was not infallible theology, he refuse to accept it as such; when his conscience told him that the temporal power of the Pope was maintained at the pense of his legitimate spiritual influence, that it was an element of weakness rather than of strength to the Church of Christ, he refused any longer to countenance or defend it. When he found pontifical allocutions and the canons of councils usurping the place and authority of the Bible in the Church, he chose to stay with the Bible rather than go with its papal substitute. In this firm faith in God and the right, in this bold rejection of all compromises with the priesthood of error, he alone of all the illustrious

reformers of Catholicism since Luther holds an apostolic attitude. Will he maintain it? To surrender deliberately and voluntarily the most cherished affections of one's heart is a fear-ful trial for any man. Few are equal to it. With Father Hyacinthe the Church of Rome had represented all that was most pure and lovely on earth. His life had been spent in decorating it with imaginary charms. To his youthful vision it was the New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, with of jasper, gates of pearl, and streets of He finally awoke from his illusion, and found that temptation and sin reap their harvests at Rome as regularly as elsewhere, and that

'God alone is great.' Father Hyacinthe has no quarel with the Catholic Church, but with its abuses. He wisely thinks that its maladies, like those of the human system, are to be cured from within and not from without; that the remedy must be applied to the heart, not to the skin. He does not, therefore, intend to abandon his Church, but to labor for it. He wisely declines to take refuge in any other religious organization, for he knows that the vices of which he complains in his Church belong to the universal human heart, and, in one shape or another, are likely to present themselves in all denominations. He therefore, given the world to understand that what capacities of usefulness remain to him will be consecrated to the purification and edification of the Church in which he was reared, and which he thinks has enjoyed, and continues to enjoy, at least, as much of God's favor as any other.

Naturalists tell us that the sparrow abandop eggs which she discovers have been handled, and refuses to give life to offspring which she feels herself too weak to protect. The eagle, on the other hand, confident in her strength, fights for her offspring; and if one is ravished from her nest she cherishes the rest of her brood only the more tenderly. The soi-disant liberal Catholics of Europe since Luther, like the sparrow, take counsel of their weakness, and as reformers have begotten nothing: have abandoned their convictions, as it were, in the egg. On the other hand, Father Hyacinthe, like the eagle, confiding it that sort of strength which renders the feeblest arm invincible, is ready to fight in defense of his convictions, and, with the blessing of God, proposes to do what he can to deliver the Church from its enemics, and in opening its doors again, as in the beginning, to all who make the love of God and their neighbors the rule of their lives. Will be, in shooting the arrow of God's deliverance, "smite the ground five or six times," like the King Joash, for want of faith, will be smite only three times and stop?

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

CHRISTMAS DINNER TO THE POOR. The teachers of the Sabbath and Day Schools of the Bedford Street Mission intend giving a dinner, on CHRISTMAS DAY, to the scholars under their care, at the MISSION HOUBE, No. 619 BEDFORD Street, be-tween 19 and 1 eclock. Interesting exercises in the chapel, before dinner, by Interesting exercises in the chapel, before dinner, by the children. The citizens are cordially invited to be Donations, either in money, poultry, provisions, or cloth

Donations, either in money, poultry, provisions, or clothing, respectfully solicited, and can be sent to either of the undersigned:

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Rev. JOHN D. LONG,

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AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, WALNUT Street, S. E. corner of Fourth.
PHILADELPHIA, December 20, 1869.
NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders
of this Company, for the election of thirteen Trustees to
serve the onsuing year, will be held at the office on
MONDAY, January 3, 1870,
between 10 A. M. and 12 o'clock neon.
12 20 12t JGHN S. WILSON,
Secretary.

FARMENTS, TIONAL BANK, FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NA-TIONAL BANK,
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10, 1888.
The Annual Election for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on WEDNESDAY, the 12th day of January rext, between the hours of 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 o'clock P. M.

12 let J12
W. RUSHTON, JR., Cashier.

CORN EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK. PHILADELPHIA, December 11, 1869.

The Angual Election for thirteen Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House on TUESDAY, January 11, 1870, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 3 o'clock P. M.

Cashier.

Cashier.

CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY .- THE Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the CAMBRIA IRON COMPANY will be held at their Office, No. 400 CHESNUT Street, Philadelphia, on TUESDAY, the 18th day of January next, at 4 celeok P. M., when an election will be held for Seven Directors, to serve for the shauing year.

JOHN T. KILLE.

JOHN T. KILLE, = 12 18 25t* Philadelphia, Dec. 16, 1869. STEREOPTICON AND MAGIC LAN-TERN EXHIBITIONS given to Sunday S Schools, Colleges, and for private entertainmen MITCHELL MCALLISTER, No. 728 CHESNUT

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT, PRULADELPHIA, Penna, Nov. 2, 1869.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER CENT, on the Capital Stock of the Company, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash on and after November 2c. 1859.

Blank Powers of Attorney for collecting dividends can be had at the office of the Company, No. 286 Bouth THIRD Street. Street.

The office will be opened at 3 A. M., and closed at 3 P. M., from November 30 to December 4, for the payment of Dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., as

THOS. T. FIRTH, Treasurer. OFFICE ST. NICHOLAS COAL COM-PANY, No. 2001/4 WALBUT Street.

PHIDADELPHIA, Dec. 15, 1862.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of FIVE PER CENT, being fitty cents per share, clear of State tax, payable on and after January 3, 1870.

Transfer Books close on the 20th inst. ROBERT JOHNSTON, 12 lothstust OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6, 1809 - Warrants registered to No. 57,000 will be paid on presentation at this office, interest ceasing from date. JOSEPH N. PIERSOL,

City Treasurer. EAST MAHANOY RAILROAD COMPANY. Office No. 227 8, FOURTH Street,
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15, 1869.
The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for Officers to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, January 10, 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M.

12 14 23t

EAST MAHANOY RAILROAD COMPHILADELPHIA STREET,
POSTER,
Secretary 12 14 23t

THE MAHANOY AND BROAD MOUN. TAIN RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No. 227 S. The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company and an election for Officers to serve for the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the Company on MONDAY, January 10, 1870, at 1 o'clock r. M.

ALBERT FOSTER,
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